

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA,  
HELD THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2015

The Honorable Council of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, met in regular session on Thursday, May 28, 2015, at 6 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, there being present:

President:	Russell
Councilpersons:	Showers, Culver, Kling
Councilpersons Absent:	Robinson
Mayor:	Battle
City Administrator:	Hamilton
City Attorney:	Joffrion
City Clerk-Treasurer:	Hagood

President Russell called the meeting to order.

Rev. Michael Jones led the invocation; President Russell led the pledge of allegiance.

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council on May 14, 2015, and a Special Session of the Council on May 21, 2015, were approved as submitted.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Resolutions and Special Recognitions.

President Russell asked Mayor Battle to join him for the recognitions, along with Mr. Steve Ivey, Director of Parks and Recreation.

President Russell stated that it was their special honor to recognize two State championship teams at this time, the Randolph School Girls Varsity Soccer Team and the Randolph School Boys Varsity Soccer Team. He stated that they had both won State championships in very close games.

President Russell stated that he would like to thank the Parks and Recreation Department, along with many other City departments, who had done such a wonderful job in getting the fields ready for the State championship. He also thanked the Huntsville Sports Commission for hosting this event.

President Russell stated that they were very proud to host this tournament, and that it was really great that two local teams had been able to participate and win the championships.

President Russell asked Coach Ken Hudson to come forward and tell them about the season and introduce the assistant coaches and players.

Coach Hudson stated that it had been an interesting season, noting that with the way the weather had been, it had been difficult to develop any continuity. He continued that, however, the team had really come together toward the end. He stated that they always said the playoffs were like their second season and noted that this year they were very successful in this.

Coach Hudson stated that, speaking for Randolph School, he wanted to thank the City, the Sports Commission, and the Parks and Recreation Department, noting that they had put together a

really good tournament. He continued that he believed they had one of the premier fields in the state, and most likely in the South, and that they really appreciated this.

Coach Hudson introduced his assistant coaches and the team members. He stated that some of the team members could not be present because of having other commitments at this time.

President Russell congratulated the team and the coaches on this outstanding achievement.

President Russell asked Coach Alex Tomlinson to come forward and describe their season and invite the assistant coaches and team members to come forward.

Coach Tomlinson stated that the team had lost in the championship game the prior year and that this year the players had said this would not happen again, and that the work ethic from the team had been unbelievable, from the first time they stepped on the field the prior summer all the way through the championship game. He stated that the championship game was very close, but the team had never given up, and that with 30 seconds to go in the game, they had scored a goal, winning the State championship. He stated that it had been a total team effort, and that he was so proud of the players. He stated that he was also proud of the girls soccer team for their outstanding achievement. He stated that it had certainly been a great moment in his life.

Coach Tomlinson introduced the assistant coach and the team members.

President Russell congratulated the team members and the coaches on their outstanding achievement.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution commending J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College on the establishment of a Craft Beer Brewing program, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-357)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers.

President Russell asked if there was any discussion of the above resolution.

There was no response.

President Russell called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers stated that he was honored to present this resolution to the J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College. He asked Dr. Helen McAlpine and Dr. Mary Jane Caylor to come forward, noting that he was delighted to have them present on behalf of Drake State Community and Technical College, to be recognized for what they had done for the school.

Councilman Showers read from the resolution that J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College had created a program for Craft Beer Brewing, which graduated its first class

on March 18, 2015. He stated that the college continued its history of preparing students for tomorrow's workforce today with this March launch of non-credit certificate classes in craft beer brewing under the leadership of Dr. Helen McAlpine, President; Dr. Mary Jane Caylor, Dean of Workforce Development; and Dr. John Reutter, Dean of Research and Planning, Faculty and Staff. He stated that the college offered this certificate in response to the increased demand for qualified brewers and the proliferation of craft beer and micro-brewing facilities in the Madison County area. He stated that Drake State had initiated an inaugural class for those interested in this career field on March 17 and 18, 2015, the first in Alabama. He stated that this offering had been highly successful and was the predicate of a certification in this field.

Councilman Showers stated that the efforts of many persons in this were recognized and that these persons were lauded for their contributions to this effort. He stated that they wished to acknowledge these persons and asked that they come forward as their names were called.

Carie Partain, Vice President of the statewide Free the Hops Organization; Rich Partain, Sales Manager at Straight to Ale Brewing; Dan Roberts, Executive Director of the Alabama Brewers Guild; Ethan Couch, a founding member of Yellowhammer Brewing and General Manager; Mark Koesters, Craft Beer Manager for Supreme Distribution; Damon Eubanks, owner and General Manager of Wish You Were Beer; Chase Shelton, Bar Manager at

Below the Radar; Weedy Weidenthal, Brewmaster of Blue Pants Brewing; Chef Darrell Echols, Culinary Arts Instructor at Drake State; Khalid Holmes, Instructor in Biological Science Department at Drake State; Dr. Andy Crouse, Chief Beer Biologist at The Leavendary at HudsonAlpha; Dr. Peyton McNully, Founder of The Leavendary at HudsonAlpha; Charles Winters, Executive Vice President, Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau; Chad Emerson, Chief Executive Director of Downtown Huntsville, Inc.; and Dr. John Reutter, Dean of Research and Planning at Drake State.

Councilman Showers stated that the Council was pleased to recognize the effort, talent, and dedication to the advancement of Huntsville's economic future and its quality of life thorough these accolades, duly awarded and merited to the individuals mentioned above.

Councilman Showers presented a copy of the resolution to Dr. McAlpine, noting that he also had copies for all the persons who were being recognized at this time.

Dr. McAlpine expressed appreciation for the resolution. She continued that she also wanted to thank their wonderful partners who had assisted them in responding to the needs of the community, noting that that was one of the things they felt they did very well. She stated that there had been a need for craft brewing, and they had responded. She continued that the person who had had the major responsibility for their workforce development was Dr. Mary Jane Caylor. She stated that she

wanted to thank all the persons who had been recognized for giving them the opportunity to do just what they wanted to do, which was responding to the people.

Dr. McAlpine stated that she would like to extend to the Administration and to the Council an invitation to come to their college and perhaps have a meeting there or to come and let the Culinary Arts program really demonstrate to them what a wonderful group of students they had, noting that they were excellent cooks.

Dr. Caylor stated that persons were seeing before them the presenters who had made this program possible, that they had worked very hard on this, without pay, to present their field. She thanked them for their hard work, noting that it was certainly appreciated. She stated that the school was scheduling a for-credit course in craft beer brewing.

President Russell stated that the next resolutions on the agenda were for adoption only at this time.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution congratulating Mr. Abner Merriweather, Government and Industry Leadership Award Honoree, during the Fourteenth Annual Leadership Awards Banquet, sponsored by the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc., to be held at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center, Alabama A&M University, at 6 p.m. on June 6, 2015, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-358)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing

resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution congratulating Dr. Kemba Chambers, Education Leadership Award Honoree, during the Fourteenth Annual Leadership Awards Banquet sponsored by the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc., to be held at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center, Alabama A&M University, at 6:00 p.m. on June 6, 2015, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-359)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution congratulating the Kimberly Fails Jones Foundation, Civic and Community Leadership Award Honoree, during the Fourteenth Annual Leadership Awards Banquet sponsored by the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc., to be held at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center, Alabama A&M University, at 6:00 p.m. on June 6, 2015, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-360)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.



President Russell read and introduced a resolution congratulating Dr. Bobby Sledge, Religious Leadership Award Honoree, during the Fourteenth Annual Leadership Awards Banquet sponsored by the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc., to be held at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center, Alabama A&M University, at 6:00 p.m. on June 6, 2015, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-361)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution congratulating Damson Automotive Group, Corporate Leadership Award Honoree, during the Fourteenth Annual Leadership Awards Banquet sponsored by the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc., to be held at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center, Alabama A&M University, at 6:00 p.m. on June 6, 2015, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-362)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution congratulating Mr. Neal Gladden, Small Business Leadership Award Honoree, during the Fourteenth Annual Leadership Awards

Banquet sponsored by the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc., to be held at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center, Alabama A&M University, at 6:00 p.m. on June 6, 2015, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-363)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution congratulating Mr. Gary T. Whitley, Alumnus of the Year Award Honoree, during the Fourteenth Annual Leadership Awards Banquet sponsored by the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc., to be held at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center, Alabama A&M University, at 6:00 p.m. on June 6, 2015, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-364)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution congratulating Mrs. Carolyn Parker, William Hooper Council Distinguished Alumna Award Honoree, during the Fourteenth Annual Leadership Awards Banquet sponsored by the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc., to be held at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center, Alabama A&M University, at 6:00 p.m.

on June 6, 2015, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-365)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution congratulating Mrs. Sadie Pleasure, Alumna of the Year Award Honoree, during the Fourteenth Annual Leadership Awards Banquet sponsored by the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc., to be held at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center, Alabama A&M University, at 6:00 p.m. on June 6, 2015, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-366)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution congratulating Sen. Paul Sanford, Government Relations Leadership Award Honoree, during the Fourteenth Annual Leadership Awards Banquet sponsored by the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc., to be held at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center, Alabama A&M University, at 6:00 p.m. on June 6, 2015, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-367)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing

resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution congratulating Dr. Ruth D. Jones, Government and Industry Leadership Award Honoree, during the Fourteenth Annual Leadership Awards Banquet sponsored by the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc., to be held at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center, Alabama A&M University, at 6:00 p.m. on June 6, 2015, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-368)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers stated that on June 6 at the Alabama A&M University Edward L. Knight Reception Center, he would be presenting these resolutions on behalf of the Mayor and the Council. He stated that the presentations would be to Mr. Abner Merriweather, Government and Industry Leadership Award; Dr. Kembra Chambers, Education Leadership Award; the Kimberly Fails Jones Foundation, Civic and Community Leadership Award; Dr. Bobby Sledge, Religious Leadership Award; Damson Automotive Group, Corporate Leadership Award; Mr. Neal Gladden, Small Business Leadership Award;

Mr. Gary T. Whitley, Alumnus of the Year Award;  
Mrs. Carolyn Parker, William Hooper Council Distinguished  
Alumna Award; Mrs. Sadie Pleasure, Alumna of the Year Award;  
Senator Paul Sanford, Government Relations Leadership Award;  
and Dr. Ruth D. Jones, Government and Industry Leadership  
Award. He stated that these would be presented at the event on  
June 6 at Alabama A&M University at the Knight Center.

President Russell stated that the Council had one other  
special recognition at this time, the presentation of a  
resolution honoring Rev. McKinley Jones.

President Russell recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers read from the resolution, recognizing  
the many contributions of Rev. McKinley Jones to the community,  
particularly noting Rev. Jones' outstanding contributions as  
the pastor of Blackburn Chapel from January 1960 for many  
years, and acknowledging his family. He stated that Rev. Jones  
had passed away recently, at the age of 91.

Councilman Showers asked the members of Rev. Jones' family  
to come forward.

Councilman Showers presented the resolution to  
Rev. Michael Jones, the son of Rev. McKinley Jones.

Rev. Jones expressed appreciation for the recognition of  
the work his father had so graciously performed in the city.  
He stated that his father was a very humble man and was  
constantly working for others, and that for this to be noticed  
by this body was a great honor to his family. He stated that

on behalf of his mother and other family members, he wished to express their appreciation for this recognition.

Councilman Showers stated that Michael Jones had made history in the city by being the first black Assistant Fire Marshal in the city, noting that at this time he was retired.

President Russell stated that at the prior Council meeting, there had been numerous questions concerning body cameras. He asked Mr. Hamilton if he could provide an update on what the Administration had been doing concerning this matter.

Mr. Hamilton stated that at the prior meeting of the Council, there had been a lot of dialogue concerning this, not only from the public but also from the Council members and the Mayor. He continued that they had spoken about the need to improve this technology.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they remained committed to move into this technology, noting that the research on this was ongoing at this time amongst the City staff. He indicated a book that he had, stating that it represented a portion of the research the Police Department, along with the Legal Department, had done in looking into how this could be implemented. He stated that included in this was the fact that there were Federal grants for which the City could compete. He continued that the City would compete for this, but noted that as they had looked at it, they had found that a lot of communities across the country would compete for this funding

and that there would be no guarantee the City would necessarily get this. He stated that, obviously, it would be great to be able to tap into this source of funds to assist with this project, but stated that whether the City got this or not, it would not change the Mayor's commitment to move into this technology.

Mr. Hamilton stated that there were a number of things they would have to study concerning this matter, as had been discussed. He stated that, of course, they would have to find the right hardware solution. He continued that an important part of this was that they had a strong desire to maintain the dash cams that were in existence inside the cars. He stated that as they had looked at how other departments had done this, they had found that some of them had implemented the body cams by eliminating the dash cams. He continued that they did not believe this was necessarily the right strategy for them, noting that as they had looked back at historical cases, they had found that oftentimes they had gotten very valuable footage out of the dash cams that body cams would not be able to capture. He stated that, for example, if there was a high-speed chase going on and all they had were body cams, that during the chase what the body cam would get would be the steering wheel, that it would not necessarily capture the things that were happening during the chase, such as what other cars were doing around the area, and such things as that, which would be valuable to an investigation and to ultimately

resolving the case.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they wanted to maintain the dash cams and add on the body cams as an additional source of information, an additional technology the officers would have available to them.

Mr. Hamilton stated that finding the right hardware solution was part of this. He continued that the cameras would capture an enormous amount of data which would have to be stored. He stated that there were a number of different ways this could be done and stated that they were looking at the ways other departments had done this, noting that some had done it well and some had not, so that it was good to learn from the successes as well as the failures, to make sure they would have the right storage capacity in place.

Mr. Hamilton stated that as they looked at the costs, there were clearly the up-front costs of buying the hardware, and then there were the downstream costs, day after day, year after year, of storing the data and managing it, and to potentially distribute some of the data. He stated that there were operating costs that would have to be considered and budgeted appropriately forever. He stated that, clearly, there was the money factor associated with this.

Mr. Hamilton stated that, also, there was the policy, noting that they were going out and capturing what other ordinances and laws existed, as well as internal policies on the way the data would be managed, and the way persons' privacy



would be appropriately protected, not only as to the privacy of the officer wearing such camera. He stated that when the officer went into the restroom, or certain places, one would have the right to a level of privacy. He continued that they wanted to assure that the policy would be in place to protect the officers' privacy, as well as the privacy of the citizens with whom they might engage. He continued that when an officer had to go into someone's home, the camera would capture things, and stated that he believed everyone would agree persons' privacy inside their homes should be appropriately protected, as well.

Mr. Hamilton stated that these were the kinds of policy decisions they would need to research and find what they believed would be the right solution for the community and get these things in place. He stated that while they all wanted to move as quickly as they could on this matter, they did not want to rush to failure, that they wanted to assure that they had learned the lessons of the department that had gone before them in this matter and make sure they got this in place in the right way.

Mr. Hamilton stated, concerning the Federal grant, that they were working on developing the application for this, noting that the deadline was June 16. He stated that in terms of the time line, the first mark on the wall they would have to hit would be getting this submitted by June 16. He stated that regardless of whether they were successful in getting some of

this money, they would continue to move forward on this study and find the right hardware solutions and software solutions to this program.

President Russell asked if the Council members had any questions of Mr. Hamilton.

President Russell recognized Councilman Culver.

Councilman Culver stated that he could certainly not agree more with Mr. Hamilton that they did need to maintain the dash cameras, in conjunction with the body cameras. He stated that he had been able to interact with some of the agencies at the Alabama League of Municipalities meeting in Tuscaloosa. He continued that the Federal Government had approximately \$263 million for this program, and while that was not a lot of money, per se, for this program for the entire country, the cost of the body cameras was down considerably as technology had changed.

Councilman Culver stated that, speaking of technology, he was aware they had been concerned about what would happen if an officer did not turn his or her camera on, that it might give the appearance that perhaps they would be intentionally withholding that. He stated that there was a company that had a system that once an officer exited the patrol car, the body camera would automatically come on. He stated that this was something that he had found interesting at the meeting in Tuscaloosa.

Councilman Culver stated that also interesting was that

cities such as Gadsden had 100 percent of their officers with body cams and dash cams. He stated that also Florence had 100 percent of their officers with body cams. He continued that there were numerous municipalities that perhaps did not have 100 percent but might have 50 percent or 30 percent. He stated that he realized any amount was going to be a strain to the City's already taxed budget, but stated that, as he had stated previously, they could start out with whatever amount they could afford and gradually build this up.

Councilman Culver stated to Mr. Hamilton that he was in agreement with him that they should take their time on this, that they should measure 10 times and cut once. He stated that he applauded the Administration for not rushing and jumping out and doing something because it was a concern, but that when they did it, they would do it correctly.

Councilman Culver thanked Mr. Hamilton for his update. He stated that if he could help with this matter in any way, he was certainly open and receptive to do whatever he could and to share whatever information he might have, as well.

Councilman Showers stated that he certainly respected Councilman Culver, but noted that there had been two recent cases in the city where a shooting had taken place, one concerning a man who had a knife in his hand and another one where a female had an object in her hand. He stated that persons who had read this article in the newspaper realized that one of these had been killed, and the other one had been

shot in the leg. He stated that it was imperative that they got these body cameras so that they could eliminate any guesswork about what had happened. He stated that as quickly as they could get the body cameras, he wanted the City to move on it. He stated that he was aware they had to go through the procedure in developing the application and submitting for the grant, but stated that he did not feel they could afford to wait until some other incidents took place before they would get in a hurry on this matter.

Councilman showers stated that he wanted to encourage them to do the application process as quickly as possible, noting that he was concerned about the reports in the newspaper he had just mentioned. He continued that if they had had body cams, they would not have to wonder about what had happened, if it was called for, or if something else could have happened. He asked that they go ahead and do this as quickly as they could get the paperwork submitted.

Councilman Showers stated that he felt it was a good message that the City of Huntsville was on record in support of body cams.

President Russell stated to Mr. Hamilton that Councilman Showers had brought up the matter of recent shootings in the city and asked if there was someone from the Police Department that could inform the public and the Council concerning these cases.

Mr. Hamilton stated that Lt. Lawson could do this.

President Russell asked Lt. Lawson to give his name and title for the record and inform the Council and the public about these shootings.

Lt. Darryl Lawson appeared before the Council, stating that he was the Public Information Officer for the Huntsville Police Department. He stated that on the prior Monday evening, the police had been called to the 11000 block of East Gateway Drive in South Huntsville. He stated that Anthony Briggs and his brother, Quentin Briggs, lived in the same apartment building, with Anthony living in an upstairs apartment and Quentin living in a downstairs apartment. He stated that Quentin had said that his brother came downstairs, banging at the door and yelling, wanting him to come to the door, and at first, he had just kind of ignored him, but then when he had gone to the door and opened the door, Anthony attacked him with a knife, so he shut and locked the door behind him.

Lt. Lawson stated that a downstairs neighbor had heard the commotion outside, and he had come out to see what was going on, and that Anthony had charged him and attacked him with the knife, and that the neighbor had retreated to his apartment and called the police.

Lt. Lawson stated that the police had arrived at approximately 10 o'clock, and that Anthony was on the upstairs level of the apartment building, and that the police had come up, and he started running down the steps of the apartment building, yelling at the police and charging them with a knife.

He stated that he had an eight-inch kitchen knife with about a six-inch handle in his hand.

Lt. Lawson stated that he had raised the knife at the officers, like he was going to throw it, and then pulled it down by his side and continued to charge the officers, and that the officers were yelling at him to stop, to drop the knife, to get on the ground. He stated that they kept yelling at him, and he continued to charge them, and they were forced to pull their firearms and use deadly force to stop the threat against them.

Lt. Lawson stated that once everything was over, HEMSI was already on the scene, because they had been called there for the stabbing call. He stated that they immediately transported Anthony to Huntsville Hospital, and that he had later died of his injuries.

Lt. Lawson stated that Major Crimes, Internal Affairs, and Crime Scene were all on the scene investigating this matter. He continued that it was still under investigation and that the officers were on administrative leave at this time. He stated that in coming weeks, Chief Morris would have an Incident Review Board to review all the details of what happened at that time.

President Russell asked if there were any further comments.

President Russell recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers stated that there was another incident

where a person was shot. He asked if Lt. Lawson could comment on that one.

Lt. Lawson replied in the affirmative, stating that, however, he had not been prepared to speak concerning that incident and that this would be just from his recollection. He stated that that incident had happened some weeks prior. He stated that this person had a restraining order on her estranged husband, and that he had come to her mother's house, where she was staying, and had broken into the house, and he had a gun and a knife with him. He stated that the woman had grabbed a shotgun and retreated into the garage of the house while her mother had gone to call the police and inform them that he was breaking in.

Lt. Lawson stated that the estranged husband had followed the woman into the garage. He continued that the police had arrived about the time shots were being fired. He stated that the officer had pulled his weapon and had seen the woman standing in the garage with a shotgun and had demanded that she drop the shotgun. He continued that she had turned, pointing the shotgun toward the officer, and that was when the officer had fired his weapon at her, striking her on the hip, he believed. He continued that he was not sure exactly where this was in the hip area, but that it was in the hip area.

Councilman Showers stated that there had been many incidents where the public had asked if the officers had had to shoot persons. He stated that the female had been shot in the

hip, and that this did not kill her, but that the man with the knife was killed. He stated that he was aware that police officers had to protect themselves and to protect citizens, but stated that in cases where they did not have to kill an individual, he hoped the cameras would add to preventing these types of developments.

President Russell stated to Lt. Lawson that he would like to thank him for what he and his colleagues did, noting that in just hearing those two stories, he had put himself in that position, and stated that he really admired the work the police did. He asked that Lt. Lawson pass this along to the other officers.

President Russell recognized Councilman Culver.

Councilman Culver stated that he did not have any questions for Lt. Lawson but just had a general comment. He stated that he was generally a very optimistic person, but noted that this was the beginning of a lot of things to happen, not just in Huntsville but throughout the state of Alabama. He stated that the media had opened the door to the mental concerns relating to one of the gentlemen, Anthony Briggs. He asked Mr. Joffrion if it was all right if he talked about that at this time.

Mr. Joffrion stated that he was not sure where Councilman Culver was going with this, so he could not be sure if it was all right or not.

Councilman Culver stated that his message was to the



State's Legislative delegation. He stated that they had to pass a budget, no matter what they had to do to do this, so that the State hospitals, mental institutions, and mental health centers would not be cut. He stated that this particular young man had had some issues. He stated that he would not go into detail concerning this, but noted that he had dealt with him when he was in the Magistrate's office. He stated that when persons were not able to get the proper and necessary treatment and medication, the Council would, unfortunately, be seeing more of this.

Councilman Culver encouraged everyone to solicit their State legislators and the Governor to get a budget passed so that all of these things that concerned citizens would not be cut, and there would not be these type issues happening in any city.

President Russell recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling stated that they were working toward body cams, noting that he had not heard any resistance toward this, and that he believed the technology was getting better on this so that the prices would get better.

Councilman Kling stated that he believed body cams would be a two-way street, that, No. 1, they would help provide public trust, noting that he was aware there were some areas where persons did not trust the Police Department. He stated that, at the same time, they could actually exonerate and show that police officers were acting properly in the line of duty.

He stated that he felt it was certainly a good thing that they were moving toward this.

Councilman Kling stated that it was a tough job being a police officer, noting that he believed Huntsville was about the 39th largest land area city in the country, and noting that this was a very large area the Police Department had to cover. He stated that the police officers put their necks on the line every day, that they did not know what situation they might be going into. He stated that there had been situations in the past where a police officer had gone to work in the morning and had not returned home that night.

Councilman Kling stated that he felt this was a good effort and that he believed everyone on the Council was in favor of moving ahead with the body cams, which he noted he believed would be a good benefit to the community and to the police officers.

President Russell asked if there were any further comments concerning the matter of body cams.

There was no response.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Business with Outside Legal Representation.

President Russell stated that there were three items to consider at this time. He continued that the first item was the Council decision regarding Personnel Hearing G-14-01 for Karl Kennemore.

President Russell moved to uphold the decision of the

Personnel Committee in Personnel Hearing G-14-01 for Karl Kennemore.

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling.

President Russell asked if there was any discussion of the above motion.

Councilman Kling stated that since the department head involved was no longer a City employee and had not been in attendance at the hearing to be able to testify, he did not believe they could make a decision against him, or perhaps at all, in this matter.

President Russell called for the vote on the above motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Council members present.

President Russell stated that the next item was the Council decision regarding Personnel Hearing G-14-02 for Karl Kennemore.

President Russell moved to uphold the decision of the Personnel Committee in Personnel Hearing G-14-02 for Karl Kennemore.

Said motion died for lack of a second.

Councilman Showers moved to support Karl Kennemore in Personnel Hearing G-14-02.

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling.

President Russell asked Councilman Showers how he was proposing that the Council support Mr. Kennemore.

Councilman Showers stated that as the Council had done in previous hearing actions, he would reserve the opportunity to

state what it was that he wanted for Mr. Kennemore until a later date.

President Russell stated that, as he understood it, Councilman Showers was moving to overturn the decision of the Personnel Committee but not giving any action concerning this.

Councilman Showers stated that he would not do so at this time. He stated that just as the Council did not vote on such actions at the time they occurred and did this at a later date, he wanted to reserve until a later date stating what he wanted to add to this particular motion.

President Russell asked Councilman Showers if there was a particular reason for this. He continued that the Council had promised the employee they would vote on this matter at this time and that he would like to do so.

Councilman Showers stated that they would be voting, that it just would be that they would not be giving the remedy. He asked the Council to allow time for this. He stated that he was aware Mr. Dennis Riley, attorney for the Council in this matter, had been available, but that he had not spoken with him about how to handle this matter. He reiterated that he would like to reserve this until the next meeting of the Council.

Mr. Joffrion stated that as a matter of process, it would be more appropriate to just postpone this item until a date certain, to act on it at that time rather than concluding an action that would have no substance to it at this time.

President Russell stated that he was in agreement with

this but noted that it would be up to a majority of the Council members as to how they wished to handle this matter.

Councilman Kling asked if it might be helpful if the Council would take a break in order for Councilman Showers to speak with Mr. Riley.

President Russell asked Councilman Showers if he would like to speak with Mr. Riley.

Councilman Showers replied in the affirmative.

President Russell stated that there would be a five-minute recess.

(Recess.)

President Russell reconvened the meeting.

President Russell recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers stated that he would defer to Councilman Culver.

Councilman Culver stated that the motion would still hold to overturn the decision of the Personnel Committee. He continued that the remedy they were seeking would be that Mr. Kennemore would not be supervised by the alleged harasser and that he would no longer be subject to any kind of harassment, annoyance, or alarm.

President Russell asked Councilman Showers if that was his motion, if he agreed with what Councilman Culver had stated.

Councilman Showers replied in the affirmative.

President Russell asked Councilman Kling if he agreed to second the motion as stated.

Councilman Kling replied in the affirmative.

President Russell stated that, as he understood the motion, it was that they did not want Ms. Johnson to be Mr. Kennemore's supervisor at any time.

Councilman Culver stated that that was currently correct.

President Russell asked if that would be forever or for just a short period of time.

Councilman Culver stated that they would not say "forever," but under the circumstances, until some time had passed. He continued that they would leave that to the department head.

Councilman Culver stated that this was nothing new, that the Council had done this previously in the Fire Department, where they had taken persons out from under the supervision of other persons, for various reasons.

Councilman Culver stated that they would not put a time period on this but leave it open.

President Russell stated that it was his understanding that at this time Mr. Kennemore was not under Ms. Johnson's supervision.

Councilman Culver stated that that was correct and that this was that it would remain that way.

President Russell stated that the remedy was basically exactly the way it was at this time, that they were just putting it into words.

President Russell asked if there was any further

discussion of this matter.

There was no response.

President Russell called for the vote on the above motion, and the following vote resulted:

Ayes: Showers, Culver, Kling

Nays: Russell

Absent: Robinson

President Russell stated that the motion had passed.

President Russell stated that the next item was the Council decision regarding Personnel Hearing G-14-03 for Karl Kennemore.

Councilman Showers moved to support Karl Kennemore in Personnel Hearing G-14-03.

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver.

President Russell asked if there was any action to be included in this motion.

Councilman Culver replied in the affirmative. He stated that the motion would be to overturn the decision of the Personnel Committee. He continued that the remedy they were seeking would be that Mr. Kennemore would not be subject to the supervision of Mr. Greene and that he would no longer be subject to any kind of harassment, annoyance, or alarm. He continued that, also, Mr. Kennemore would be given equal opportunity to apply for any position with the City, without regard to any of the hearings the Council had heard that could be held against him; that, in essence, his slate would be clear

for him to apply for any position just as any other employee who might want to apply for any position with the City.

Councilman Kling stated that the prior week the Council had held hearings on these matters, and that the record showed things such as memos, conversations, et cetera, and that although he did not agree with everything Mr. Kennemore had to say in the three hearings, he did believe that very legitimate issues had been raised, and that some of the evidence was very eye-opening. He stated that based upon the hearings and the transcript of the hearing before the Personnel Committee, he believed there was merit for approval of the motions that had been put on the table for the second and third hearings for Mr. Kennemore, G-14-02 and G-14-03.

President Russell stated that he wanted to make it clear that at this time Mr. Kennemore was not supervised by Mr. Greene and that, obviously, he could apply for any position in the City for which he was qualified, at any time, and would be treated fairly. He continued that he just wanted to make sure that this was clear. He stated that to him this was a motion that was redundant. He continued that he would vote in favor of the motion but noted that these things were already being done.

President Russell asked if there was any further discussion of the above matter.

Councilman Culver stated that he certainly understood that everything they had moved for was already being done, but that



this sent a message that, first of all, Mr. Kennemore was obviously harassed and annoyed.

President Russell stated that he did not agree with that statement. He continued that he was not harassed, he was not discriminated against, he was not retaliated against.

Councilman Culver stated that harassment could be subjective, but when there were situations where Mr. Kennemore had been written up two or three times and those situations turned out to be not within the guidelines of the policy, that to him it became harassment, just the general conversations and everything surrounding it.

Councilman Culver stated that while the motions that had been made might not have a lot of teeth, he believed what they clearly wanted to do was to send a message that not only Mr. Kennemore but any City of Huntsville employee who was similarly situated would not be subjected to that. He continued that he had worked in City government for some 30-plus years and that he was happy to have been a City of Huntsville employee and happy that he had a reasonably good reputation. He stated that sometimes when persons did things such as Mr. Kennemore had done, they got labeled, and they got blackballed. He continued that he did not want to see this happen to Mr. Kennemore nor to anyone in City government, that he wanted City government to be a great place to work, and that it was. He stated that there might be some blocks in the road, but that they were going to try to iron out those blocks if

they could.

President Russell stated that it appeared to him that they were politicians, that they were voting for something that had already happened and making it look like they were doing something.

President Russell called for the vote on the above motion, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell stated that the motion had passed.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Public Hearings to Be Held.

President Russell stated that it was the time and place in the meeting for a public hearing for Roiant White, dba RCLS, to operate (3) three luxury vehicles in the city of Huntsville, which hearing was set at the May 14, 2015, Regular Council Meeting.

President Russell recognized Mr. Tommy Brown, Director of Parking and Public Transit.

Mr. Brown stated that this concerned an application to operate three luxury vehicles in the city of Huntsville. He stated that this was not only a new business but was actually a new service that would be available to the citizens of Huntsville. He continued that this was upscale-type transportation for executives that the company would be providing. He stated that this had been made possible by the recent action of the Council in approving the Vehicles for Hire ordinance update several weeks prior.

Mr. Brown stated that the background checks had been done and that this matter was in order for the Council's approval after the public hearing.

President Russell asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to address the Council on this particular issue.

There was no response.

President Russell stated that the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Showers read and introduced a resolution granting a special shuttle license to Roiant White, dba RCLS, for the operation of (3) three luxury vehicles in the city of Huntsville, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-369)

Councilman Showers moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling.

President Russell asked if there was any discussion of the above resolution.

There was no response.

President Russell called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Communications from the Public.

Ms. Sherrie Saunders, 12004 Hearthstone Circle, appeared before the Council, stating that, unfortunately, one of her

partners, Mr. Rusty Loiselle of Help the Homeless Veterans and Citizens, had been injured earlier in the day. She continued that he was to have been with her to give some comments. She stated that she would be speaking on what he had intended to speak concerning.

Ms. Saunders stated that a month prior, she had been promoted to Director of the CPH in Huntsville. She continued that she now had an office at 12004 Hearthstone Circle, located within Huntsville. She stated that she was very excited about this.

Ms. Saunders stated that one of the questions she would like to pose to the Council was concerning her prior request to be included within the Human Relations Commission. She continued that she would like some feedback on this.

Ms. Saunders stated that on the Council's agenda there was a partnership they were going to be speaking about between the City of Huntsville and New Futures, Inc. She stated that she would like to know where she and her organization could go to find out more information on exactly what this relationship was going to be for the homeless in the city.

Ms. Saunders stated that she would next like to comment on something of which she was very proud. She stated that when she had first stood before the Council, she had told them the story of a homeless veteran who had been calling her home several times daily, and she had not been able to find him a bed. She stated that that was approximately eight months prior

and stated that she would like to announce at this time that she, Director of CPH, along with Rusty Loiselle, had been able to procure 40 beds for drug and alcohol treatment for the citizens in Huntsville. She continued that the facility was located in Birmingham, but she had 40 beds available for the people of Huntsville for drug and alcohol treatment for one year. She stated that this was open to the homeless, that it was open to anyone they could find, perhaps in the court system, that deserved a second opportunity. She stated that she was very proud of the eight months she had spent negotiating this. She continued that she would like some feedback from the Council as to how they felt about this and if it was important to them.

Ms. Saunders stated, concerning the body cameras, that she and CPH were going to partner with the United For Action group in the city to get more information out about why people feel that body cameras are important. She stated that she would like to say that if they had a body camera that could be shut off by a police officer at any time, they would be making a mistake and would be wasting their time, because they could not prove things they could not see. She stated that she understood what points had been made concerning this, but stated that she would like to make the point that if one could turn off a body camera, they would be wasting their time.

Ms. Saunders stated that she and CPH were researching for comparable statistical findings, by comparison to the issues of

authoritative abuse and civil rights violations in respect to those like identified circumstances in Ferguson, Missouri.

Ms. Saunders stated that on the following day she would be asking for an appointment with Lt. Darryl Lawson, Public Information Officer of the Huntsville Police Department, who had introduced himself earlier in the meeting. She stated that she would begin the process of asking for information that might or might not prove allegations that the Huntsville Police Department was acting wrongly toward North Huntsville, which she noted was predominantly an African American community. She stated that persons felt the Huntsville Police Department needed to explain themselves, to take away the feeling of the citizens of Huntsville that they were being treated wrongly.

Dr. Clarence Johnson, 3302 Buttrey Drive, appeared before the council, stating that he was appearing before the Council because he was interested in the development of things going on in the city. He stated that he was thankful to Mr. Hamilton for the transparency concerning where the City was on body cameras. He stated that he was also thankful for the input from the Councilpersons, as well as the previous speaker, Ms. Sherrie Saunders, who had expressed concern for body cameras.

Dr. Johnson stated that he was also concerned about the status of sensitivity training for the officers coming out of the Academy. He asked what these officers were receiving in the way of sensitivity training at this time and asked how this

could be improved, especially with regard to ethnic issues between police officers and community members in North Huntsville, as well as throughout the city itself. He stated that, for instance, he was baffled that the gentleman they had heard about earlier in the meeting had been shot and killed, even though he agreed 100 percent that officers needed to be protected, that their lives needed to be protected and their rights protected, as well as every other citizen in the community. He stated that Councilman Showers had spoken about the lady who had been shot in the hip. He asked about shooting someone with a knife other than in the chest.

Dr. Johnson stated that he would like to know about the sensitivity training and what could be done to enhance this training, to speak to people of color especially in North Huntsville, and people of color throughout, and Asian, Hispanic, et cetera.

Dr. Johnson stated that he would like to thank Mr. Shane Davis and the Planning Department, on behalf of the North Huntsville Business Association. He stated that he had a phenomenal relationship with Mr. Davis and the department, and that he was looking forward to trying to do some positive things to foster economic development in North Huntsville. He stated that Councilman Showers had done a wonderful thing in bringing the North Huntsville Business Association into existence. He stated that they might have the opportunity to vie for funds and development. He asked the Council not to

forget North Huntsville. He stated that he did understand that some things were coming to North Huntsville and that he was very appreciative of this. He stated that, however, he always asked for a little more, as he saw a preponderance of work being done elsewhere.

President Russell asked if there was someone representing the Police Department who could come to the microphone.

Deputy Chief Kirk Giles appeared at the microphone.

President Russell stated to Deputy Chief Giles that Dr. Johnson had asked a question concerning how much sensitivity training officers received and if there should be more.

Deputy Chief Giles stated that he did not know the exact number of hours of training that were given in the basic class. He continued that if he was not mistaken, there would be a four-hour class on the following day, and that he was also aware of another class. He stated that he would say it was a minimum of eight hours, if not more, that they received in the Academy.

Ms. Jackie Reed, Jack Coleman Drive, appeared before the Council, thanking them for allowing public input. She continued that Huntsville was a beautiful city, with beautiful people.

Ms. Reed stated that if persons would notice the jacket she was wearing, it looked like snakeskin. She continued that she might have to accuse them of some snakes crawling around in



City Hall when they did some deals of which the public was unaware, such as the fire station deal that persons had not known about until they came to the Council meeting. She stated that things like that really bothered her. She stated that she would like to thank Mr. Jerry Cox for bringing this item to the public's attention before the Council voted on it. She stated that she would also like to thank Councilman Showers, Councilman Culver, and Councilman Kling for holding onto the fire station on Jordan Lane, noting that she felt it was very important.

Ms. Reed stated that she knew there were many things that would be coming up in the budget and stated that they needed more police officers. She stated that she did not know about the sensitivity training. She stated that everyone had a little different personality, and that everyone needed to respect the badge and the uniform. She stated that some people were hot-headed, hot-tempered, and that could not be changed. She stated that she had gotten pulled over on Holmes Avenue awhile back, and that she had been told not to reach to get her driver's license. She stated that this was not just going on in North Huntsville, that it was everywhere. She stated that the officer had told her not to touch anything, and that she was not going to disrespect the uniform and was going to do everything she was told to do.

Ms. Reed stated that she wanted to encourage the public to listen and to respect the uniform, noting that they could cause

half of what was going on if they did not listen to them. She stated that she was going to respect them and that she urged other persons to do the same thing. She stated that they had gone to school, and they were going to protect themselves, and she did not blame them.

Ms. Reed stated that she would like to see in the upcoming budget a three to five percent raise for City employees. She stated that they were always saying the City employees were doing such a good job, and that she was looking forward to each of them getting a raise.

Ms. Reed stated that she was concerned with the schools in the city. She stated that Butler should not be closed, that that should be stopped.

Ms. Reed stated that the apartments they were building were going to affect the realtors in the city. She stated that she did not know what they were doing in the City, and she did not know who was running the City. She stated that downtown was not important to her, and all they wanted to do was downtown. She stated that she was concerned about the Coca-Cola plant still sitting over there. She stated that they were talking about tearing down Joe Davis Stadium, and she knew they would not hear anything about the Coca-Cola plant until they leased it to someone to build Joe Davis Stadium. She stated that the property would sit over there until they got their deals made and then get tied up. She stated that she could see through everything they were doing.

Ms. Reed stated that what they were doing in the city in tearing down buildings was tearing down the city. She continued that the School System was destroyed. She stated that they should stop it. She suggested that they get someone to run the City who had some common sense. She continued that they should look up the definition of "common sense," that she would certainly appreciate it if they did.

Ms. Reed stated that she would like to know what the cost was for four-laning Bob Wallace in front of Whole Foods and how much longer they were going to be in getting it completed.

Councilman Kling asked Mr. Joffrion who ran the School System, or who had the legislative authority over the School System. He asked if this would be the City Council and the Mayor or the elected School Board.

Mr. Joffrion stated that it was the Huntsville Board of Education.

Councilman Kling thanked Mr. Joffrion, and stated that as a former School Board member, he felt vindicated.

Councilman Kling stated that they had been talking about the, quote, secret deals on the fire station. He stated that he believed this was very much out there, and that he appreciated everything that had been done. He stated that Mr. Hamilton had sent an email to the Council members laying out the proposal, he believed on the Friday before the meeting on the following Thursday. He stated that he had then contacted Mr. Hamilton and asked if he could get the Fire Chief

to make a presentation, because he had some concerns about the coverage. He stated that Mr. Hamilton had arranged this, and that the Fire Chief had made a presentation at the meeting concerning it.

Councilman Kling stated that he believed his concerns had pretty much been set forth, noting that there had been some media reports about it. He stated that there was nothing really secret about that. He stated that the matter had come before the Council, in an open meeting, and they had had a very spontaneous discussion about the matter. He stated that nothing was contrived, and that it had been a split vote, 3 to 2, and that the matter had been carried over.

Councilman Kling stated that he very much appreciated the efforts of Mayor Battle and Mr. Hamilton, and Dr. Wardynski with the School System, that they had gotten together and worked this matter out, and the fire station was saved. He continued that he felt this was a great plus for the neighborhood and the residents in those areas. He stated that the City would be doing the demolition on the old Morris School building when the new building would be occupied.

Councilman Kling stated that he did not believe this had been very secretive, that it was pretty much out there. He stated that he appreciated everything that had been done concerning this matter, and that he believed it was a good process.

Councilman Kling stated that all this was done in a public

meeting, and that he believed there was more openness than perhaps some people understood.

President Russell asked Mr. Hamilton to make a note to provide Ms. Reed with the cost of the Bob Wallace improvements.

Pastor T.C. Johnson, 1800 Sparkman Drive, appeared before the Council, stating that a lot of his conversation had been quelled by the earlier report on body cameras. He stated that he had realized he did not present the petition he had had at the prior meeting to the Council, and that he would do so at this time. He stated that this had been developed by the North Huntsville Community Unified for Action and the Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship. He stated that they all went throughout the community, collecting what were now more than 2500 signatures on this petition.

Pastor Johnson stated that he certainly wanted to thank Mr. Hamilton for his report earlier in the meeting. He asked if Mr. Hamilton would be the point of contact to ask each week where they were on this particular matter.

Pastor Johnson stated that at a prior meeting, he had asked several questions concerning the Police Department. He continued that he wanted everyone to understand that from his perspective, this was not just to help citizens, that it was to help the Police Department as well as the citizens. He stated that Mayor Battle had sent him a letter that he thought was personal, but that he had later found out other people had also received it. He stated that he did not feel special any more,

but he did want to thank the Mayor for sending it. He stated to Mayor Battle that he had noticed the things that were negative, but that when he read this, there were also some positive things about the body cameras that he hoped he had seen as well.

Pastor Johnson stated that research had shown that the use of force decreased by 49 percent wherever body cams were used. He continued that these were stats, and that they would not know whether the police officers acted differently or the public acted differently. He continued that, however, it did not really matter, that it saved police officers and the public, and that was what they wanted to do.

Pastor Johnson stated that when he had first presented this, he had presented it as an initiative for the City to be progressive, as they said they were. He stated that he appreciated the fact that they were moving on this.

Pastor Johnson stated that he had another question. He stated that 74.5 acres at the Columbia School location was traded, plus \$4.5 million in later packages would be given to the schools. He stated that he would like to know the value of the property the School System had given the City. He continued that in keeping with what Stone had been sold for, \$1.4 million, and what the Seldon Center was and what Cavalry Hill was, he wanted to know the dollar comparison. He stated that it was going to the School System, and that that was not the issue, that the issue was what were they trading.

He stated that he believed the public should be informed as it related to the dollars swapped, even though they were helping the community schools. He stated that he still wanted to know what the property values were as related to what they swapped with the School System.

Pastor Johnson stated that he had asked this question previously and would ask it again. He asked if an officer opened his knife on a student and threatened to cut earrings out of his ear if this would be considered a crime. He stated that he wanted to know this before he pursued finding out if this was correct. He stated that according to the parents, it happened at the special school, where kids were disciplined. Pastor Johnson stated another question he had asked was how much money was in the training budget for the Police Department, noting that it was not just basic training. He stated that having spent 21 years in the military, there was training even for single supervisors. He stated that the training budget would tell whether or not they were serious about keeping the officers in pace with what was good and what was helpful.

Pastor Johnson stated that he often came with a Freedom of Information request for the City. He stated that he had that at this time and he would like to give it to someone. He stated that he also did not know to whom to give the petition.

President Russell stated that they would pick it up after the meeting.

(Submission by Pastor Johnson)

President Russell asked Mr. Hamilton if he was prepared at this time to answer Pastor Johnson's questions concerning the land value in the swap with the School System.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he could partially answer Pastor Johnson's question. He stated that because there was an exchange for value, and not only some cash but also in-kind service, the demolition; an easement; and also exchange of land itself, there was not a precise number that could be put on this. He stated that because this was an exchange between two public entities, there was not a requirement for appraisals, so that not all the land had specific appraisals. He stated that this was why he could not give a specific number from that kind of document. He continued that on some of this he could. He stated that, for example, the land where Columbia High School sat was in Cummings Research Park, and that that land was typically sold at \$100,000 per acre. He continued that in this case, 74 acres would be \$7.4 million. He continued that this was not the appraised value, that it was by policy, as the set price for which this City-owned land would be sold.

Mr. Hamilton stated that this might not be the precise number Pastor Johnson was looking for, such as one would see in a private real estate transaction where appraisals had been done. He continued that that had not occurred in this case. He stated that the same group of taxpayers, the citizens of Huntsville, owned both of these accounts. He stated that the



taxpayers still owned the land where Columbia High School sat, that it was just that it was now under the management of the School Board rather than the City Council. He continued that the same would be true of all the things that were exchanged between the two accounts.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he totally understood why the question had been asked, but that, unfortunately, because of the nature of the transaction, they did not have what one would typically think of as a precise number, from appraisals, for all these properties. He stated that they could get an appraisal, but that would cost the taxpayers money, and at the end of the day, they would still own that same value, whatever the number might be. He stated that they had chosen to save that money and not pay someone to appraise the property when the same persons would still own the property at the end of the transaction.

Mayor Battle stated that the value of the money that came into this would allow the School Board to move forward with Morris Elementary School, which he noted was the last of the rebuilds they would be doing, as proposed out of the system and out of the court settlement. He stated that this would allow them to move forward with the last school that was not budgeted and financed in that transaction.

President Russell recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling stated that he felt it was a good thing that these two bodies were working together. He continued that

the Council met with other governing bodies in the area and that they were working with the School System, which he felt was a great thing.

Councilman Kling stated that the citizens in Southwest Huntsville would benefit from this transaction because the old location of the Tech Center would not be doing the School System any good, and that if it were just sitting there as a vacant building, it would become an eyesore and not be a good thing for the area. He stated that they were going to demolish that old building, and the space would be used to expand the ball fields at Brahan Spring Park, and that it was also going to allow for the expansion of the Senior Center, and also the gymnasium at the location. He stated that he felt this was a good thing that was being done, and that it would be a great thing for Southwest Huntsville.

Mr. Hamilton stated that Councilman Kling was correct, that the land would be used to expand the recreational opportunities. He stated that the ball field portion of this was an expansion of the existing soccer and lacrosse complex, which they called "Merrimack Park." He stated that it would bring it to a size and scope that would allow them to host much larger tournaments, in addition to being able to meet the demands of the local community. He stated that this was really a regional facility, that it brought in tournaments from all over the Southeast, as well as the state of Alabama. He stated that not only would this be a great addition to Southwest

Huntsville, but it would serve the entire community as a regional facility.

President Russell asked Mr. Hamilton if he would be the point of contact concerning body cameras.

Mr. Hamilton replied in the affirmative.

President Russell asked if Mr. Joffrion could advise the Council concerning the question Pastor Johnson had concerning an officer saying something to a student. He asked what Pastor Johnson should advise the student to do. He continued that Pastor Johnson had alleged that an officer had said to a student that he would cut the earrings off his ear if he didn't do something. He stated that Pastor Johnson had asked if this was a crime.

Mr. Joffrion stated that he would not give an opinion as to whether or not an alleged action constituted a crime. He stated that one would be welcome to file a complaint with the Internal Affairs Department if one had a complaint against the actions of an officer.

President Russell asked Deputy Chief Giles to come to the microphone.

President Russell stated that there had been a question concerning the size of the Police training budget and asked if he had that information in front of him.

Deputy Chief Giles replied in the negative.

President Russell asked if he could get that for Pastor Johnson. He stated that he could send the information

to all the Council members, and it could be forwarded to Pastor Johnson. He asked if this information was on line, noting that he was aware that the Police budget was on line but did not know if it was broken down.

Deputy Chief Giles stated that he would get the information to the Council.

President Russell asked him to make sure all the Council members received this information.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the number the Council would be getting would reflect the budget that paid for travel or tuition-type fees if they sent an officer out of the community for training. He continued that the type of training they had been talking about, in terms of sensitivity training, was mostly done locally, and that oftentimes it was done by City employees or by community leaders that were doing it for free. He continued that the budget would really tell only a portion of the story. He stated that, for example, the training in the Police Academy was conducted by Mr. Anderson. He stated that they did not give the Police a budget to pay Mr. Anderson's salary for four hours, but that he would be there for four hours conducting training. He continued that the dollar figure would only be a portion of it.

President Russell stated that he believed Pastor Johnson's question had been concerning what type of training they did, and stated that if they could provide that answer and put some costs with it, that would help them.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Huntsville Utilities Items.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval for the purchase of roof repairs at the Southwest Water Treatment Plant (PR 10182400) (Utilities: Water), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-370)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval for the purchase of roof repairs at the South Parkway Water Treatment Plant (PR 10182401) (Utilities: Water), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-371)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Board Appointments to be Voted On.

Councilman Showers read and introduced a resolution to appoint Kelly May to the Housing Board of Adjustments and Appeals, for a term to expire August 22, 2018, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-372)

Councilman Showers moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by

Councilman Culver.

President Russell called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell asked if there were any Board appointment nominations.

There was no response.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Approval of Expenditures.

Councilman Showers read and introduced a resolution authorizing expenditures for payment, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-373)

Councilman Showers moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell asked Councilman Showers if there was a Finance Committee report.

Councilman Showers replied in the affirmative and recognized Mr. Randy Taylor, Finance Director.

Mr. Taylor stated that he had a brief mid-year budget review report at this time. He stated that he did not have a presentation for the Council because there was not a great deal of detail to go into. He stated that what they typically did in the mid-year budget review was to remind the Council members what their expectations had been for the year and advise them as to where they were in regard to the expectations, and what

this would mean as they looked forward to the upcoming budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

Mr. Taylor stated that they had been hoping that their revenue growth would be approximately 2.5 percent over the prior year, noting that this was for the General Fund. He continued that this would provide sufficient revenues to pay for everything they had budgeted for the current year, the operating costs within the departments.

Mr. Taylor stated that they had heard quite a bit about sales tax revenue because a monthly report was given on this. He stated that he had reported at the prior meeting that sales tax revenue was at 3.8 percent growth for the year, which he noted was higher than they had anticipated.

Mr. Taylor stated, concerning other revenues, that they knew a good deal more about these at this time because they were seven months into the year. He stated that in the other accounts, they had some minor increases above budget, minor surpluses, but also some significant shortages. He stated that property tax was an example of this, noting that they had budgeted that property tax would be 3 percent ahead this year, but that it was actually .5 percent behind budget. He continued that this was a \$600,000 impact.

Mr. Taylor stated that the other amounts that were ahead were all close enough to the budget that it was not significant. He stated that where they felt the sales tax was headed at this time, it would produce an approximate \$550,000

to \$750,000 surplus for the General Fund, if the current growth rates continued. He stated that they should keep in mind that the General Fund did not keep all the funds, that a lot of it went to the Capital programs, as well, and to the School System.

Mr. Taylor stated that overall, they thought they were within the one percent target they wanted to be within at this time, as they looked toward the remaining five months of the year.

Mr. Taylor stated that the budget was \$247 million, so that to be within one percent was still a sizeable variance, but that that was the kind of swing they could have in the budget from month to month and quarter to quarter. He stated that overall they were confident of being able to achieve their revenue goals, but they did have the surpluses and shortages he had mentioned.

Mr. Taylor stated that Personnel cost was the No. 1 expense, and that that was about equal to sales tax revenue, that they both represented approximately 55 percent of the General Fund Budget. He stated that Personnel was running over budget at this time, noting that some of this was because of the overtime that had been incurred during the weather events of the year that had not been budgeted. He continued that they had also had a larger amount of retirement payouts than they had expected.

Mr. Taylor stated that at this time Personnel varied a lot



because they did not know what the retirement payouts and vacancy rates would be for the remainder of the year. He stated that at this time Personnel was within approximately \$500,000 of its budget, noting that this changed plus or minus from month to month. He stated that they felt confident relative to where they were with respect to revenues and significant Personnel costs.

Mr. Taylor stated that all the other expenses, the operating costs of the departments and some other costs, were generally within budget, as well. He stated that their significant costs were utilities, which were a little over budget; fuel costs, which were under budget; health costs, which were trending upward, just in the prior two months, noting that at mid year they had been running at an approximate 12 percent growth rate, which he noted was higher than they wanted it to be but was within budget. He continued that the prior two months had been dramatically higher.

Mr. Taylor stated that at this time they were spending 17 percent more on health care than they had the prior year. He stated that in the last two months, they had spent an extra 25 percent, for April and May claims. He stated that they were watching health care costs more closely, noting that they were in the .5 million overage range at this time. He stated that this was difficult to predict, that they changed significantly from month to month.

Mr. Taylor stated that all other operating costs were much

less significant than the ones he had mentioned, and that they were all within budget.

Mr. Taylor stated that this concluded what he wanted to say as far as where they were at this time. He stated that at seven months into the year, they were within budgetary constraints and expectations they had put in place, and stated that they did not see a lot of change for the remainder of the year. He stated that sales tax, of course, had to stay at its current trend to give them continued confidence.

Mr. Taylor stated that as far as how this related to what they would be thinking about as they headed into the budget cycle for the upcoming fiscal year, he would defer to the Mayor.

Mayor Battle stated that they had held a budget meeting earlier in the day and had started talking about the process they were going to move through on the budget. He stated that they were going to try to get the budget to the Council at the last Council meeting in August, August 27, and then to hopefully have a vote on the budget by September 10. He stated that there was a week there that there could be a work session to go through the budget and make sure the Council members understood what the Administration was looking at.

Mayor Battle stated, concerning pressure points for the upcoming year, that longevity pay would be into the second year, and that that would be a \$750,000 increase. He stated, concerning outside agencies, that he believed the

Administration and the Council had talked to a number of outside agencies that were looking at funding requests, capital requests and operating requests, for the upcoming year. He continued that there were also pay issues, that they still had these to decide, so that they could come up with some final numbers on the budget. He stated that they were working on those at this time, that the departments were working up their budgets, and outside agencies were also turning theirs in. He reiterated that they should have something for the upcoming year by the end of August.

President Russell asked if the Council members had any questions concerning this matter.

President Russell recognized Councilman Culver.

Councilman Culver stated to Mr. Taylor that this was the first he had heard about property tax being down 5 percent. He questioned how this would happen, noting that he had thought it would be more consistent.

Mr. Taylor stated that it was down by .5 percent, not 5 percent. He continued that they had expected it to be up by 3 percent, but that it was down by .5 percent, noting that it was basically level. He stated as far as how this happened, that the City, of course, did not have any hand in valuing property, that this was done by the Tax Assessor. He continued that what this reflected was a lower valuation on properties citywide. He stated that they could not have anticipated this, noting that they did not have the figure they had hoped to get

when they had prepared the budget and the Mayor presented it and the Council had adopted it. He stated that they did not receive that until after the budget had actually been passed. He stated that they had had some indication of it earlier, but that until the end of February, they really did not have enough property tax collected to know what the trend would be. He stated that this had been clear to them since approximately February.

Councilman Culver stated that he understood this now, noting that he was thinking that these were monies they were not collecting.

Mr. Taylor stated that they were collecting it, that it was just less than they had expected.

Councilman Culver stated that his second question concerned health care, noting that he believed Mr. Taylor had stated it was up by 17 percent in comparison to some previous time. He stated that with all the things they had been doing concerning this, he had thought they would see a substantial decrease in health care costs for the City of Huntsville employees.

Mr. Taylor stated that the costs were up, but that the Council members should keep in mind that from year to year, depending on the specific health issues of each individual employee and the cost associated with this, it was hard to isolate if costs were down in the absolute because of the new clinic arrangement. He stated that they were obligated to

provide the City these figures at some point, but that they were not even a year into this, noting that they had just started the clinic at the beginning of the fiscal year. He continued that they had expected that the savings they would realize from the new clinic would more than pay for the cost of the clinic. He stated that, obviously, it was going to take some time to show the greatest benefit, that the cost benefits could possibly be decades into the future, noting that the most significant value would be doing things for employees' health care in the middle and later years.

Mr. Taylor stated that health care costs could, in fact, be down, that he was not saying they were or were not, because they just did not have the data at this time. He continued that it could be less because of the clinic, that he was just saying that there were claims going on at this time that were making this figure more than it had been in the prior year.

Councilman Culver asked Mr. Taylor if he was referring to some out-of-the-ordinary claims where employees might have some serious problems.

Mr. Taylor replied in the affirmative. He stated that this was not a commentary on the success of the clinic and its impact on the costs, that it was just a figure that showed that they were spending that much more at this time.

Mayor Battle stated that they had known from the outset that there would be some people who would all of a sudden be getting medical care who had never had medical care, or did not

have a regular doctor to go to, and that by going to the clinic for care, they would have a regular doctor. He reiterated that they were aware that there might be some increased costs on the very front end. He continued that, however, catching these persons on the front end and having them get treated would result in fewer bills over the long term because things would not be taken to a more serious stage. He reiterated that they were aware that there would be some additional early costs, but that they were hoping it would have later cost savings, because they would not go to the critical stage in health care.

Mayor Battle stated, concerning the property tax, that at one of Councilman Showers' Town Hall meetings approximately a year prior, a woman had stated that her house had been devalued, that it was worth so much less. He stated that right after that meeting, they had asked Fran Hamilton about what had been happening, why they were seeing less money come in, and why they were seeing devaluation of property on property tax statements.

Mayor Battle stated that approximately two years prior, it had started being a requirement to put the cost of sale on every deed, and that Ms. Hamilton had started keeping up with that cost-of-sale information, so that she had a very good record of what the actual appraised tax value of property should be. He continued that she had started including in that, with the appraised tax value, property that had maybe gone into foreclosure, property that had been sold at distress

sales, things that would not normally be included in just a regular valuation of property. He stated that when she had included this, it had brought down the price of property.

Mayor Battle stated that he believed the woman who had commented at Councilman Showers' meeting had lived in an area that had had some foreclosures, and that the foreclosures were starting to reflect on the tax rolls, that they were used as comps, and that ultimately this brought down the tax valuation.

Mayor Battle stated that what they were seeing at this time was the result of that, where the valuation had dropped some and that valuation dropping had reflected back in the City having one-half percent less income coming in off property taxes than it had had before.

Mayor Battle stated that it had been approximately two years prior that they had had to start putting the actual sales price on each deed. He continued that if the sales price was put on a deed, they had started capturing that in the Tax Assessor's office, and it reflected on the tax value of the property.

Councilman Kling stated that he had been out to the Employee Clinic, and that he believed it was a great asset. He stated that perhaps they needed some more communication they should get out to the employees about the clinic. He stated that there was free parking, that the wait time was very, very short, there were employees there that kind of knew the City employees, knew their history, that it was a little better than

going to a doctor's office. He stated that many generic prescriptions were on site, and they were free, that the employee did not have to get a prescription and then go somewhere else to get it filled, and, also, there was no charge to the employee for this. He stated that it was a good resource, and that as the word got out, perhaps more employees would decide to let the clinic do the lion's share of their care rather than having to spend money going to a doctor, noting that, of course, the doctor's bill would be something the City would have to pay.

Councilman Kling stated that it was a great facility, and he believed they had very good care, and that there would not be a lot of the hassles one would have in having to go to a doctor's office. He stated that if they got the word out about this to the employees, there might be more persons using the clinic, and that could result in some cost savings.

Councilman Kling asked, concerning the property tax, if the rate was similar to what had been coming in at this time in the prior year or if it was possible there might have been more properties coming in in the prior year compared to what they had received in the current year.

Mr. Taylor stated that he did not believe so. He stated that property taxes had been assessed October 1, 2013, and then the bills were sent out in October 2014, so that the taxes were collected on properties that had been on the tax rolls for some time. He stated that the tax base would not be changing during



the year, that it would not be as if they would have some more properties that would be yet to come on and be paid later in the fiscal year. He stated that because of the one-year lag, the values were pretty well established from the assessment figures, and from what they had received. He continued that the taxes were all due to the County by December 31, and that some would carry on, and then, of course, there would be tax sales to enforce the final collection. He stated that he believed they collected approximately 99.8 percent of all the taxes assessed. He continued that they would have received most of that, although some of it was still coming in, from property sales and things such as that. He stated that most of what was supposed to have been paid had already been collected.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Communications from the Mayor.

President Russell recognized Mayor Battle.

Mayor Battle stated that he would like to congratulate the 1508 graduates from the Huntsville City School System. He continued that they had had approximately \$51 million in scholarship offers. He stated that special kudos should go to the graduating seniors at Butler High School, noting that they had \$1.1 million in scholarships, an increase of 166 percent, and Johnson High School that had \$2.6 million in scholarships, an increase of 257 percent.

Mayor Battle stated that the Huntsville City School Summer Feeding Program would start on June 1 and go through July 24,

providing free meals, breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Mayor Battle stated that the Greene Street Market was happening on Thursday nights at this time, along with Thursday Night Bikes in the Downtown Area, where persons could rent a bike. He stated that a lot of things were happening downtown, that there was also the Sounds of Summer, featuring live music on the Square, on Fridays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. He continued that on Friday nights the Art Walk would begin in June, on the first and fourth Fridays, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Mayor Battle stated that Movies in the Park would be held at the back of the Art Museum beginning on June 12, starting at sundown. He stated that, also, Concerts in the Park would start on June 1, with the first performance being Unknown Lyric and Juice.

Mayor Battle stated that the Huntsville Housing Authority would be having a Youth Summer Job Initiative on June 2 at the Oscar Mason Center from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Communications from Council Members.

President Russell recognized Councilman Culver.

Councilman Culver stated that he did not have anything at this time.

President Russell recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling stated that he had attended a very good meeting on the prior Monday evening with residents of Scenic Drive, noting that this was the first time he had had an

opportunity to attend a meeting with this group, noting that this was a group that was just getting organized. He stated that they had had some concerns that he had relayed to both Community Development and Huntsville Utilities. He continued that he felt these would be responded to very quickly. He stated that it was always enjoyable meeting with a neighborhood group and helping them form an association and getting involved and seeing things they were doing to enhance their neighborhood.

Councilman Kling stated that a very important meeting was going to be taking place on the following Monday evening in the University Park neighborhood, which he noted was made up of residents of University Park, Cloverdale, and McThormore Acres. He stated that the meeting would be at 6:30 p.m. at the University Baptist Church on Jordan Lane. He stated that they would be voting to ask the City to close a portion of Henderson Road at Hunt Drive to deal with some of the problems they had had with cut-through traffic coming into their district. He stated that this was an important meeting, and he was looking forward to it, noting that the leadership had been getting the word out, to let everybody in those neighborhoods know about the meeting so they would have an opportunity to participate in it.

Councilman Kling stated to Mr. Joffrion that he was aware that he was still working on what he would call the "Junk Newspaper Ordinance," and he understood it would be in a form

that could be coming up at the next meeting of the Council. He asked if Mr. Joffrion could comment on the status of this, inquiring if it would be an ordinance or an amendment to the existing ordinance, or how it might be configured.

Mr. Joffrion stated that it would be an ordinance, but that he was not sure at this time if it would be an amendment to the existing ordinance or a free-standing ordinance. He stated that this was to be determined after they completed their review and research into this matter. He stated that it would be ready for introduction at the next Council meeting.

President Russell recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers stated that on the following Tuesday, June 2, he would be holding his Town Hall meeting, at 6 p.m. at the Showers Center. He stated that department persons had been invited to attend this meeting.

Councilman Showers stated that on the following Wednesday, at 1 p.m., the North Huntsville Business Association would be meeting at the Lakewood Baptist Church for their regular meeting.

Councilman Showers stated that also on Tuesday, June 2, the Lakeside Farmers Market ribbon-cutting ceremony would be held. He stated that this would be at the Lakeside United Methodist Church at 3738 Meridian Street, and that everyone was invited to attend.

Councilman Showers stated that on the upcoming Saturday, May 30, a long-time friend of his, Otis Threatt, would be

honored at a retirement party, at 2025 Sparkman Drive.

Councilman Showers stated that on Friday, June 5, the Huntsville Bible College 22nd Vision Banquet would be held at the VBC East Hall at 7 p.m.

Councilman Showers stated that on the following Saturday, he would be presenting the 11 resolutions that were passed earlier in the meeting at Alabama A&M University, on behalf of the Mayor and the Council.

Councilman Showers asked if Michelle Jordan, Director of Planning, was present at the meeting.

Ms. Jordan appeared at the microphone.

Councilman Showers stated to Ms. Jordan that they had been trying to move progressively forward in North Huntsville with their association. He stated that Ms. Jordan had put on the table a mechanism about which he was extremely excited, as it related to contacting businesses in North Huntsville. He asked if Ms. Jordan would briefly address this. He continued that Ms. Jordan would be at the meeting of the North Huntsville Business Association on the following Wednesday, and that she would be sharing how she was proposing to enhance the awareness in North Huntsville.

Ms. Jordan stated that they were looking forward to having their summer interns work with managers and business owners in North Huntsville. She stated that a map would be established for the interns to use as they would go out and gather this information, so that Councilman Showers could have the right

people at the North Huntsville Business Association meetings. She stated that they were looking forward to doing this during the summer.

Councilman Showers asked if there would be a timetable as to when this process would be started.

Ms. Jordan stated that she believed the internship program started the following week, and that this would be one of their No. 1 priorities.

Councilman Showers thanked Ms. Jordan for this.

Councilman Showers asked if Mr. Hatfield was present in the audience.

Mr. Hatfield appeared at the microphone.

Councilman Showers stated that he wanted to thank Mr. Hatfield and his team of workers for all they did for the city.

Councilman Showers stated to Mr. Hatfield that there was a street in his district that he had received several calls concerning, being Pulaski Pike. He asked if Mr. Hatfield could say where they were with the next phase of this street.

Mr. Hatfield stated that they were looking at going from Pulaski and Oakwood to Sparkman and then from Sparkman to Mastin Lake.

Councilman Showers stated that he had had hundreds of calls about that section of Pulaski Pike. He continued that it had been promised this would be done two years prior. He stated that he was delighted that Mr. Hatfield had put together

a package that would improve that section of Pulaski Pike.

Councilman Showers asked if it was correct that Joy McKee was not present at the meeting.

President Russell replied in the affirmative. He stated that Brian Walker was present if Councilman Showers would like to speak with him.

Councilman Showers asked Mr. Walker to come to the microphone.

Mr. Brian Walker, Manager, Landscape Department, appeared at the microphone.

Councilman Showers stated that Mr. Walker and his team were responsible for a lot of the grass-trimming on rights-of-way and ditches, and that he also worked with the Green Team. He stated that he wanted to commend him on the service he rendered in his district, how well they kept the properties that were in back of residences in that area, including ditches.

Councilman Showers stated that there was a particular lot that Mr. Walker had made sure was kept trimmed during the summer. He stated that he especially wanted to thank him and his team for how they kept that particular lot.

Councilman Showers stated that, however, there was another lot in the neighborhood of the post office on Mastin Lake Road, on a street close to the post office.

Councilman Showers stated to President Russell that Pastor Johnson was aware of this name and asked if he could

come to the microphone.

President Russell asked Pastor Johnson to go to the microphone.

Councilman Showers asked Pastor Johnson for the name of the streets where the City in the past had been cutting the grass and had been asked to do this again. He asked if they had gotten out there and taken care of it.

Pastor Johnson replied in the negative. He stated that this was the Winona and Glen Park area. He stated that the grass at this time was approximately three or four feet tall, that they just did not keep up that area.

Councilman Showers stated that he had reported this. He stated to Mr. Walker that he was not certain if he had spoken with him about this or if he had spoken with Ms. McKee.

Councilman Showers asked Mr. Walker if he was familiar with that particular area.

Mr. Walker replied in the affirmative. He stated that he would be certain to look at the property on the following day.

President Russell stated that there would be a brief recess.

(Recess.)

President Russell reconvened the meeting.

President Russell recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers stated that he had left off a note he had. He stated that Edgemont was in his district, and that he had a note from a citizen asking that that street be checked.



He asked if Mr. Hatfield was still present in the meeting.

Mr. Hatfield appeared at the microphone.

Councilman Showers stated to Mr. Hatfield that he had a notation that Edgemont was in need of some attention. He stated that this was in the East Lakewood area of the city, around South Plymouth and North Plymouth.

Mr. Hatfield stated that he would take a look at it.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Unfinished Business Items for Action.

President Russell moved for approval of Ordinance No. 15-320, annexing land lying east of U.S. Highway 431 South and on the west side of Goose Ridge Drive, which ordinance was introduced at the May 14, 2015, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 15-320)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers.

President Russell asked Ms. Ashley Nichols of the Planning Division for an explanation of the above ordinance.

Ms. Nichols stated that the property was approximately 2.74 acres and that it was located east of U.S. Highway 431 and on the west side of Goose Ridge Drive. She stated that this was the existing Meadows at Hampton Cove subdivision. She indicated the area on a displayed map and stated that this property was the purple area. She stated that the property would be an addition to an existing road. She stated that previously the property had been thought to be in the

Owens Cross Roads town limits, but it had been confirmed that it was not, and that the property owner would like to have the property annexed into the city. She continued that it would be zoned consistent with the Residence 1-B designation of the subdivision.

President Russell asked if there were any questions of Ms. Nichols or any discussion of this item.

There was no response.

President Russell called for the vote on the above ordinance, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell moved for approval of Ordinance No. 15-321, approving the following street name change: New Church Street, formerly Orchard Street and Hundley Drive, from Oakwood Avenue south to Pratt Avenue to be renamed "Hundley Drive," which ordinance was introduced at the May 14, 2015, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 15-321)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver.

President Russell asked Ms. Michelle Jordan, Director of Planning, for an explanation of the above ordinance.

Ms. Jordan stated that the Planning Commission had heard this street name change at a public hearing on April 28, and the name change was unanimously approved at that time by the Planning Commission. She stated that they were recommending approval of this ordinance to the Council.

President Russell asked if there was any further discussion of this matter.

There was no response.

President Russell called for the vote on the above ordinance, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilman Showers moved for approval of Ordinance No 15-322, approving the following street name: The new gateway entrance into downtown from Governors Drive to Williams Avenue to be named "Dr. Joseph Lowery Boulevard," which ordinance was introduced at the May 14, 2015, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 15-322)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver.

President Russell recognized Ms. Jordan.

Ms. Jordan stated that the Planning Commission had held a public hearing on April 28 on this new street name, and it was approved unanimously. She stated that they were recommending approval to the Council at this time.

President Russell asked if there was any further discussion concerning this matter.

Councilman Showers asked Ms. Jordan if she could share with the Council a timetable on this matter and what the plans were for the dedication, and the official date the sign would go up and the street would be completed.

Ms. Jordan stated that the street was projected to be

opened at the end of the year. She continued that the date for the ceremony was still being considered. She stated that the Traffic Engineering Division had agreed to get a sign ready, and they would have the sign available for the ceremony. She continued that it might not be in place at that time if the road was not open, but it would be on site for the ceremony at whatever date would be good for Councilman Showers and Dr. Lowery.

Councilman Showers stated that this would be a historical occasion, that Dr. Lowery had lived in the city, noting that the family had lived on Church Street. He stated that Dr. Lowery had recently been honored in Selma, acknowledging the historic significance he had played in the state of Alabama and in Selma itself.

Councilman Showers stated that they were looking forward to going ahead with this dedication as soon as it could be arranged.

President Russell thanked Councilman Showers for his work on this issue.

President Russell called for the vote on Ordinance No. 15-322, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilman Showers moved for approval of Ordinance No. 15-323, regarding a Rights-of-Way Use Agreement between Southern Light, LLC, and the City of Huntsville, and authorizing the Mayor to enter into same on behalf of the City,

which ordinance was introduced at the May 14, 2015, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 15-323)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver.

President Russell asked Mr. Harrison Diamond of the Administration for an explanation of the above ordinance.

Mr. Diamond stated that this was basically a franchise agreement that would enable Southern Light, the Gulf Coast's largest provider of fiberoptic networks, to come in and commence a build-out to basically be serving commercial enterprises located in the area. He stated that they were very excited about this company coming in, noting the company had put up a billboard stating "A Gig is so 2008." He stated that this was the kind of company they wanted to deal with. He stated that if the Council approved this at this time, on June 10 the company would be having a very exciting announcement, declaring that they were in Huntsville.

President Russell recognized Councilman Culver.

Councilman Culver asked that the record reflect that he would abstain from voting on this issue for professional reasons.

President Russell asked Mr. Diamond how this would work in conjunction with the City's RFI.

Mr. Diamond stated that this was independent of their RFI process, noting that they were going to continue evaluating other options so they could determine what would be the best

model for the City to adopt as they went about becoming a Gig city.

President Russell asked if there was any further discussion of this matter.

President Russell recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling stated that he was aware they had been talking about very high speed internet, and inquired as to whether cable TV would be a part of the process the company would go into in the city.

Mr. Diamond replied in the negative.

Mayor Battle stated that they were mainly backbone providers.

President Russell recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers inquired as to the workforce development impact of this company coming into the city.

Mr. Diamond stated that Mr. Eric Daniels was with the company and was present in the audience and could speak to this. He stated that the company would be bringing in their own crews, but that perhaps Mr. Daniels would like to address this more specifically.

Mr. Eric Daniels appeared before the Council, stating that he was the Chief Operating Officer of Southern Light out of Mobile, Alabama.

President Russell welcomed Mr. Daniels and stated that the question was concerning the impact this would have on workforce development in the city.

Mr. Daniels stated that his company was actually hiring and training persons at this time for the network they would deploy in Huntsville. He stated that he believed it would be safe to say that for the size of the networks they would be trying to build out in the city, they would spend upward of \$10 million getting the initial backbone built out before they could start hooking up customers. He stated that he believed they would most likely have a workforce of approximately 30 people, as well as a lot of contractors in the area.

Councilman Showers inquired of Mr. Daniels as to how the public in Huntsville was being made aware of the company's presence.

Mr. Daniels stated that they had paid for a lot of billboards to announce they would like to come to Huntsville, as well as this process at this time.

Councilman Showers asked Mr. Daniels if there was a contact person or a phone number so that interested citizens could contact the company concerning being employed.

Mr. Daniels stated that their website had a link to their HR Director, whom he noted sat right across the hall from him. He stated that the website was [www.slfiber.com](http://www.slfiber.com).

Councilman Showers asked if it was correct that persons who might be interested could go to this website and submit an application.

Mr. Daniels replied in the affirmative.

President Russell asked if there was any further

discussion of the above ordinance.

Mayor Battle asked Mr. Daniels if he could explain "A Gig is so 2008."

Mr. Daniels stated that his company had been providing gigabit ethernet services since 2001 along the Gulf Coast area. He stated that at this time they routinely brought up 10 gigabit services pretty much every day. He stated that he believed they would have some interesting things to talk about on June 10.

Councilman Kling welcomed the company to the city.

President Russell called for a roll call vote on Ordinance No. 15-323, and the following vote resulted:

AYES: Showers, Kling, Russell

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Culver

ABSENT: Robinson

President Russell stated that the ordinance had passed.

Councilman Showers moved for approval of Ordinance No. 15-324, amending Ordinance No. 06-1220, as amended, regarding the hourly rate paid to outside legal counsel, which ordinance was introduced at the May 14, 2015, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 15-324)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling.

President Russell recognized Mr. Joffrion.

Mr. Joffrion stated that, as he had indicated to the



Council members in an email several weeks prior, he was asking for a phased-in increase in the hourly rate paid to outside Council to handle litigation and routine matters for the City of Huntsville. He stated that the last time the rate had been amended had been in 2006, when it had been increased to \$175 an hour. He stated that even at that time, that rate was considerably less than the standard rate for attorneys of the quality that were hired by the City of Huntsville to handle outside legal matters. He continued that this gap had just widened over the prior nine years, particularly with the increase in operating costs borne by private firms, and, more specifically, the increase in health care costs, which he noted had almost doubled in the prior two years.

Mr. Joffrion stated that the rates they were currently paying were really inequitable, particularly in light of the fact that when they hired outside counsel for specialized services, such as bond counsel and other specialized matters, they were paying the going rate for those services, which he noted could be upward of \$400 per hour. He stated that he was asking for a phased-in increase, to increase the rate from \$175 an hour to \$200 per hour immediately, and to increase it by an additional \$25 per hour as of October 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year, and then an additional \$25 per hour increase two years from that date. He continued that this would still be considerably less than the going rate for attorneys of that quality.

President Russell asked if there was any further discussion of this matter.

Councilman Showers asked if this rate would apply to attorneys who would represent the City Council.

Mr. Joffrion replied in the affirmative.

President Russell asked if there was any further discussion of this ordinance.

President Russell recognized Councilman Culver.

Councilman Culver stated that while he was going to support the ordinance, he was doing it reluctantly, but not that the rate was not warranted. He stated that, although it might not be practical at this point in time, he was hoping that eventually the City would recruit and hire attorneys who could handle these kinds of matters internally. He stated that he was aware this would be a long, arduous process, but that perhaps it could be done over the long term. He stated that they were spending a lot of money on outside counsel, and he would hope that they could at least start thinking in that direction. He stated that he felt the City attorneys were paid well, with a nice benefit package, and that he believed they could recruit some of the three- to five-year lawyers, who were in the top of their classes, with the packages the City offered, the retirement benefits, paid vacation, et cetera. He stated that some of his colleagues who had graduated from law school might be making more overall, but by the time they paid for insurance, licenses, self-employment taxes, et cetera, it

would make the City jobs very attractive.

Councilman Culver stated to Mr. Joffrion that he believed the City had a lot of great attorneys, noting that he had a lot of confidence in Mr. Joffrion, as well as his attorney staff. He stated that perhaps they could try to handle more cases internally, some of the smaller cases, unlike the jail. He continued that they might be able to give the City attorneys the increase they deserved by not farming out quite as much, just to kind of have a trade-off there.

Mr. Joffrion stated to Councilman Culver that he did not disagree with him at all, noting that they had had this conversation, and that they were both thinking alike in that regard. He stated that over the past several years, on four different occasions, he had offered jobs to competent litigators in private practice, and that they had come to the doorstep and then changed their minds. He stated that the reason for this was because the City just simply could not afford to pay them what they could make out in private practice.

Mr. Joffrion stated that for the first time, they did have an attorney in-house who was handling more litigation than anyone had ever handled in-house. He continued that they were very fortunate to have this attorney, that he was saving the City money. He stated that he would love to have a handful of attorneys like Mr. Grimes in the office to do that very thing and save the City a tremendous amount of money. He continued

that Mr. Grimes had chosen to accept some quality of life tradeoffs in exchange for less money. He stated that these kinds of attorneys did not come along very often, although he certainly wished they did. He reiterated that he was not in disagreement with Councilman Culver.

President Russell asked if there was any further discussion of this matter.

There was no response.

President Russell called for the vote on Ordinance No. 15-324, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilman Showers moved for approval of Ordinance No. 15-325, Substitute A, amending Section 10.21 of Ordinance No. 04-315, Personnel Policies and Procedures, for modification to the Miscellaneous Leave, (Hazardous Weather/Emergency Conditions) policy, which Ordinance No. 15-325 was introduced at the May 14, 2015, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 15-325, Substitute A)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling.

President Russell recognized Mr. Byron Thomas, Director of Human Resources.

Mr. Thomas stated that this amendment would greatly simplify their Hazardous Weather, Emergency Conditions policy, especially with regard to comp time. He stated that this would allow them to go ahead and pay that out during the pay period in which it was earned, noting that this would greatly simplify

the process.

President Russell asked if there was any further discussion of this ordinance.

There was no response.

(Councilman Kling is not present in the Council Chambers.)

President Russell called for a roll call vote on Ordinance No. 15-325, Substitute A, and the following vote resulted:

AYES: Showers, Culver, Russell

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Robinson, Kling

President Russell stated that the ordinance had passed.

(Councilman Kling is now present in the Council Chambers.)

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was New Business Items for Consideration or Action.

President Russell read and introduced an ordinance to amend Budget Ordinance No. 14-665 by changing the authorized personnel strength in various departments and funds, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 15-374)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing ordinance, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced an ordinance to amend Budget Ordinance No. 14-665 by changing appropriated funding for various departments and funds, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 15-375)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing ordinance, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the acceptance of donations, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-376)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into agreements with the low bidders as specified in the attached Summary of Bids for Acceptance, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-377)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to invoke Regions Bank Letter of Credit No. 55106540 for Olde Cobblestone Phase 3 Subdivision, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-378)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to invoke Regions Bank Letter of Credit No. 55106534 for Olde Cobblestone Phase 3 Subdivision, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-379)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to invoke South Bank Letter of Credit No. 2013-299 for McMullen Place Phase 3 Subdivision, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-380)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to invoke Bryant Bank Letter of Credit No. 1172 for Heritage Brook Subdivision Phase 1, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-381)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to invoke First Commercial Bank

Letter of Credit No. 966 for Hawks Ridge 4th Addition  
Subdivision, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-382)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the City Attorney to settle the claim of Kenneth and Josephine Oti, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-383)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Renewal Land Lease Agreement with Vandiver Farms for the Lease of Farm Land located on the east side of Old Railroad Bed Road at Magnolia Springs Subdivision, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-384)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Garver, L.L.C., for Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Services for Project Axle



Improvements, Project No. 65-15-SP39, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-385)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and the low bidder, Reed Contracting Services, Inc., for Greenbrier Parkway, Phase III-B, Project No. 65-13-RD02, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-386)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell moved for approval of a request for approval to advertise and fill position of Civil Engineer II, Pay Grade 18, and to fill position at steps higher than minimum within the pay grade if necessary, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously approved by the Council members present.

President Russell moved for approval of a request for approval to advertise and fill vacant position of Equipment Service Worker in the Fleet Services Division, at a higher than minimum salary if necessary, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously approved by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Modification No. 1 to the agreement between the City of Huntsville and Community Action Partnership of Huntsville/Madison & Limestone Counties, Inc., for services to the homeless population, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-387)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilman Kling read and introduced a resolution authorizing the City Attorney to initiate legal proceedings to collect unpaid lodging taxes, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-388)

Councilman Kling moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers.

President Russell asked Mr. Joffrion for an explanation of the above resolution.

Mr. Joffrion stated that a certain taxpayer had failed to pay lodging taxes that were owed. He stated that the taxpayer had been under an agreement with the City to make installment payments and had defaulted on that. He stated that under State law, they were not allowed to disclose the name of the taxpayer, which was why the paperwork did not reflect the name. He stated that they were bound by State law to keep that information confidential. He continued that they had to obtain

Council approval to attempt to collect the taxes through litigation.

President Russell asked if there was any further discussion concerning this resolution.

There was no response.

President Russell called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilman Kling read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute First Amendment to Ground Lease Agreement between the City of Huntsville and CityCentre, LLC, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-389)

Councilman Kling moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver.

President Russell recognized Mr. Shane Davis.

Mr. Davis stated that this was a simple modification of the development agreement with CityCentre. He stated that the City had originally been scheduled to turn the site over in early May, but that there had been some issues in getting the site cleaned up, so that they were late on this, and that they were just moving the turn-over date for the due diligence from early May to June 1. He stated that that was the agreement before the Council at this time.

President Russell asked if there was any further

discussion of this matter.

There was no response.

President Russell called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced an ordinance declaring certain real property as surplus and directing the City of Huntsville to enter into a Purchase Agreement to sell the subject property to Propst Development County Line Road, LLC, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 15-390)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing ordinance, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers.

President Russell recognized Mr. Davis.

Mr. Davis stated that this was a piece of property that the City had purchased back in 2005 for a sewer system along Highway 72. He stated that this property had originally had a pump station on it. He continued that this was only 700 square feet, and that the property was no longer needed. He continued that the pump station had not been on this site for seven or eight years, that they now had a gravity system going through that area. He stated that they would retain an easement on the property for the sewer. He stated that there was a pending commercial development, and that just to help with title issues, they had had the property appraised, and it had

appraised for \$1800. He continued that that would be the sales price for the property.

President Russell asked if there was any further discussion of this matter.

There was no response.

President Russell called for the vote on the above ordinance, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Purchase Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Propst Development County Line Road, LLC, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-391)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers.

President Russell recognized Mr. Davis.

Mr. Davis stated that in the previous ordinance, the Council had declared some property surplus, and that the resolution on the floor at this time was concerning the agreement to sell the property for \$1800.

President Russell asked if there was any further discussion of this resolution.

There was no response.

President Russell called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council

members present.

Councilman Showers read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Modification No. 1 to the agreement between the City of Huntsville and New Futures, Inc., for services to the homeless population, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-392)

Councilman Showers moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver.

President Russell asked Mr. Ken Benion, Manager of Community Development, for an explanation of the above resolution.

Mr. Benion stated that this was just some modification of categories. He stated that when they had set up the contract with New Futures, they specified in what areas they could spend the money, and that after going on through the year, they had determined they needed to spend money in different areas than were originally budgeted for, so they were just moving the categories they would be allowed to spend the money on.

President Russell asked Mr. Benion if he could state what this was.

Mr. Benion stated that it could be anything from utilities for the homeless shelter to food, that it was just different cost categories.

President Russell asked if there was any further discussion of this resolution.

There was no response.

President Russell called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilman Showers read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Modification No. 2 to the agreement between the City of Huntsville and New Futures, Inc., for services to the homeless population, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-393)

Councilman Showers moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver.

President Russell recognized Mr. Benion.

Mr. Benion stated that this was a modification to the agreement, noting that it extended the time they would be allowed to spend the funds they had given them in the contract.

President Russell asked if there was any further discussion of this resolution.

There was no response.

President Russell called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Academy, Ltd., dba Academy Sports + Outdoors, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-394)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers.

President Russell recognized Mr. Steve Ivey, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Ivey stated that this was an agreement with Academy Sports to sponsor the Fishing Rodeo, and that in return, they would give away prizes.

President Russell asked if there was any further discussion of this resolution.

There was no response.

President Russell called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilman Showers read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a real estate purchase agreement between the City of Huntsville and Sherman Industries, LLC, formerly known as Sherman International, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-395)

Councilman Showers moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling.

President Russell recognized Mr. Davis.

Mr. Davis stated that this was to purchase the right-of-way for the next phase of Church Street. He continued



that it was actually Church Street, Phase I. He stated that he was aware that this could be confusing to the public because Church Street, Phase II, had gotten ahead of it in right-of-way purchase. He stated that they were purchasing the Sherman Concrete Industries tract. He continued that they were working with the State on this, and that it was an 80/20 match, with ALDOT picking up 80 percent of the cost and the City having a 20 percent match. He stated that they had attempted to align the road such that Sherman Industries could continue to operate, but that it had become a joint venture among Sherman Industries, the State of Alabama, and the City of Huntsville to do a total taking. He stated that once the road was built, they would put some of this property on the market for redevelopment. He continued that the proceeds from this would go back into the Transportation Plan.

President Russell inquired as to the cost of this.

Mr. Davis stated that the cost was \$2,048,000, and that the City would bear 20 percent of that cost. He continued that the City cost would be approximately \$400,000. He stated that they had a 20 percent match in their Capital Plan for State and Federal projects such as this, so that this was covered in the current Capital Plan.

President Russell inquired as to how the approximate \$2 million cost had been arrived at.

Mr. Davis stated that it was arrived at through a State of Alabama appraisal, the appraisal service that both the State of

Alabama, or ALDOT, and the City of Huntsville used. He continued that the State had a review appraiser in Montgomery that would review such appraisals, and that actually ALDOT handled the negotiations.

President Russell inquired as to when the company would cease operations on the property.

Mr. Davis stated that it would most likely be sometime late in the current year. He stated that they would be moving the physical plant to their Birmingham operation, and that this would somewhat depend on when the construction of the road was commenced. He continued that they still had more right-of-way to purchase. He stated that as they got closer to construction, hopefully in the fall, persons would see that operation go away.

Councilman Kling asked if there was an estimate as to when the road project would be completed.

Mr. Davis stated that they hoped to start this phase of Church Street in the fall of the current year, which most likely would put it being completed sometime in the summer of 2016. He continued that it was an approximate nine-month project.

President Russell asked if there were any further discussion or questions concerning this item.

There was no response.

President Russell called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council

members present.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Non-Roster Communications from the Public.

Ms. Jackie Reed again appeared before the Council, stating that she would like to take back her "Thank you" to Councilman Culver, Councilman Kling, and Councilman Showers concerning the fire station. She continued that she had forgotten about them running her out of her district.

Ms. Reed stated that she had gone to the subject fire station on the Friday after the previous Council meeting, and that no one at the station had known about or heard anything about the proposed deal that was going on. She stated that she had also attended the School Board meeting where the matter had been discussed.

Ms. Reed stated to Councilman Kling that she did keep up with what was going on in the city and that when he was trying to explain it, she had already been there and done that.

Ms. Reed stated that there was no reason to squabble in the Council Chambers.

President Russell advised Ms. Reed that Mr. Hamilton had an answer to her question concerning the construction on Bob Wallace Avenue.

Mr. Hamilton stated that Ms. Reed had asked about the cost of the project going on at this time at Bob Wallace and Memorial Parkway, and that the cost of this contract was \$350,000. He stated that if she had specific questions about

the project itself, Ms. Martin of Engineering could most likely answer those things.

President Russell asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the Council.

There was no response.

Upon motion, duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

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PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK-TREASURER